



State of Connecticut

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Senator LeBeau and Representative Perone, Commerce Committee Chairmen

Senator Frantz and Representative Lavielle, Commerce Committee Ranking Members

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 530, *An Act Concerning Funding for the Consortium of Connecticut Art Museums*

I offer this testimony in support of Senate Bill 530, *An Act Concerning Funding for the Consortium of Connecticut Art Museums*. The consortium is comprised of seven independent art museums in Connecticut – the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in Ridgefield; Bruce Museum in Greenwich; Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme; Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington; Lyman Allyn Art Museum in New London; Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury; and New Britain Museum of American Art in New Britain. This partnership is unique. Its mission is to join forces as an arts consortium to leverage both the cultural and economic dimensions of these seven successful nonprofit arts institutions. This partnership seeks to build upon their already significant cultural and economic contributions to Connecticut's economy.

Collectively they seek an annual appropriation of one and a half million dollars (\$ 1.5 million) from the State of Connecticut to be shared equally by the member museums. The proposed appropriation will be used for increased operating expenditures on exhibitions, programs, and marketing. Based upon the leveraged return of \$6 for every \$1 invested, these proposed new funds are estimated to produce economic activity of at least nine million annually.

Nearly every dollar spent by these museums through their operating or capital budgets becomes sales to state businesses or income to employees. These businesses and employees, in turn, reinvest in the Connecticut economy. Overall, the economic impact of these seven art museums exceeds \$25 million dollars a year for Connecticut and supports the equivalent of nearly 720 jobs throughout the State.

The proposal put forth in SB 530 represents a sound and proven investment for the state of Connecticut which benefits not only the arts community. Its real impact comes from the leveraging of both direct and collateral economic activity dollars across our state.

Thank you for your deliberations on the merits of this economic proposal.